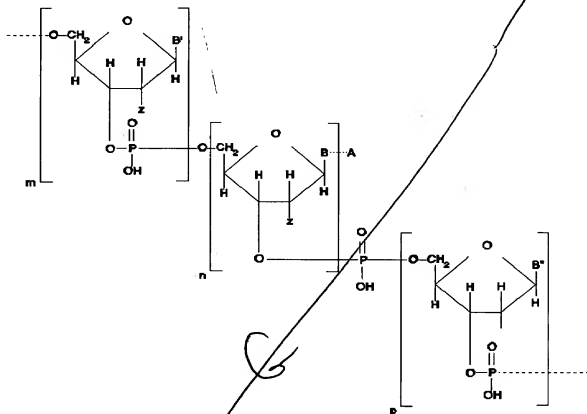


125. (Thrice Amended) A method of determining the presence or absence of a target in a sample which comprises contacting said sample with at least one compound having the structure:



wherein each of B, B', and B'' represents a purine, deazapurine, or pyrimidine moiety covalently bonded to the C1'-position of the sugar moiety, provided that whenever B, B' or B'' is purine or deazapurine, [it] the sugar moiety is attached at the N⁹-position of the purine or deazapurine, and whenever B, B' or B'' is pyrimidine [it] the sugar moiety is attached at the N¹-position of the pyrimidine;

wherein A represents at least one component of a signalling moiety and consists of at least three carbon atoms;

wherein B and A are attached directly or through a linkage group, said linkage group not interfering substantially with the

characteristic ability of B to hybridize with said target or of A to produce a detectable signal;

wherein if B is purine, A is attached to the 8-position thereof, if B is deazapurine, A is attached to the 7-position thereof, and if B is pyrimidine, A is attached to the 5-position thereof;

wherein m, n and p are integers, provided that m and p are not simultaneously 0 and provided further that n is never 0;

and wherein z represents H- or HO-; and

detecting any signal associated with said compounds [bound] hybridized to said target.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are supported by the specification as filed and therefore introduce no new matter. In response to the present rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for claims 125 and 140 having taped-on structures applicants submit a replacement for Claim 140 without taped on pieces. Claim 125 is presented above in amended form and does not include taped-on pieces. Applicants submit that this rejection has been overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

A. Claims 104, 106-109, 113-118, 125-137 and 140-144 are rejected as the disclosure is allegedly enabling only for claims limited to "A" being biotin or iminobiotin. Applicants traverse and respectfully submit that no undue experimentation would be needed to synthesize and practice other moieties.